

Bristol County District Attorney's Office
C. Samuel Sutter District Attorney

Press Release
August 13, 2010

Paralympic sailor, Paul Callahan, in conjunction with the CVS/Caremark Charitable Trust, and hosted by District Attorney Sam Sutter, will hold a free introductory sailing clinic for disabled children in Bristol County next week.

The free sailing clinic will take place on Thursday, August 19th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Battleship Cove Community Sailing Center in Heritage State Park on Davol Street in Fall River. Refreshments will be served at no cost and families are encouraged to attend.

Paralympian Callahan, a quadriplegic, (www.paulcallahan.com) will give a short presentation to the disabled children, introducing the joys of sailing as well as the Olympic spirit at 11:00 AM. This will be followed by leisure sails aboard sailboats that are specially adapted for children with disabilities, with certified and trained instructors.

"It is a true privilege to be able to join forces with Paul Callahan in his mission to open up opportunities for kids facing an extremely difficult, but as Paul has shown, not insurmountable challenge. I fervently hope that this is the first of many free sports clinics, which my office leads with Paul," District Attorney Sutter said.

To register for either the sailing clinic, contact program director Brian Rose at 508-961-1972 or email him at brian.rose@state.ma.us.

Since taking office in 2007, District Attorney Sam Sutter has shown great dedication to promoting volunteer efforts and outreach into the Bristol County community. Since October of 2007 employees of the District Attorney's Office have volunteered more than 7,621 after work hours to various district needs. One of District Attorney Sutter's personal contributions to this effort has been facilitating free tennis clinics for kids ages seven through fourteen in hopes of promoting healthy habits and exercise.

There have been 23 free sports clinics organized by District Attorney Sutter's office in the past three years. These clinics have taken place in Fall River, New Bedford, Taunton and Attleboro and featured tennis, baseball and basketball instruction. The sports clinics have reached an average of 1,000 youth each year.

District Attorney Sam Sutter will also be bringing his free tennis clinics to Taunton on Saturday August 14th and Saturday August 21st from 9:00 AM to noon. DA Sutter's tennis clinics have seen great success in New Bedford, Fall River and Attleboro, serving over 500 kids. While other sports instruction clinics have been held in Taunton in the past, this will be the city's first tennis clinic.

District Attorney Sutter was a professional tennis player, playing for Brown University and playing and teaching professionally in 10 different countries. Along with his expertise, the clinic will feature the help of varsity players from the Taunton High School boys and girls tennis teams led by coaches Meredith Patnaude and David

Purpura. District Attorney Sutter's staff members will also be on hand to assist with the clinics and provide instruction.

These two tennis clinics will be held at the tennis courts of Friedman Middle School at 500 Norton Avenue. Seven and eight year olds are invited to take the court from 9-10:00 AM, followed by nine and ten year olds from 10-11:00 AM. Participants ages 11-14 will have the court from 11:00 AM until noon. Instruction will be available to participants with various degrees of skill including beginner and intermediate.

The free Taunton youth tennis clinic is being made possible through the collaborative efforts of the District Attorney's Office along with the Taunton Mayor's Office, the Taunton Boys and Girls Club and the Taunton Public Schools. Participants will be provided with refreshments and extra rackets will be available. Participants will also receive a free sports backpack for attending.